THE
DISSEMINATOR
Nova Scotia Provincial Library
ISSN:1209-2473

THEDISSEMINATOR
V.4, #6/7 June/July, 1997

An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
3770 Kempt Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 4X8
(902) 424-2457; FAX (902) 424-0633
Available on the WWW at:
http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/provlib/disseminator/; -OR-
http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/eppp-archive/disseminator/disseminator-h/
@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Questions or comments about the activities in this issue should be directed to the contact people named. To subscribe to THE DISSEMINATOR, send a message to listserv@nshpl.library.ns.ca and enter the following text in the body of the message: **subscribe dissem-list yourfirstname yourlastname**. Comments on or suggestions for THE DISSEMINATOR should be directed to Sue Dirani (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

IN THIS ISSUE:

FEATURE ARTICLES:

- A Month in the Life of the DISS
- Core Services Study
- Automation Update
- Launch of Wire Nova Scotia
- River John Community Access Site
- Gates Library Foundation
- ISM Purchased by A-G Canada
- Staffing Notes

2008-00028/

COLUMNS:

- LINKed
- Reference on the Net
- Professional Reading

A MONTH IN THE LIFE OF THE DISS

Have you ever read THE DISSEMINATOR and wondered how it all gets put together? Well, my friends, here's the scoop. Early in the month, the three section Coordinators at the Provincial Library and I meet to discuss the items that will go into the next issue. We set a deadline for submissions, which is usually around the 20th of each month, and we notify those that were "volunteered" to write something.

Once the feature articles and regular columns have been submitted for publication, I edit them to make sure that the information a) makes sense and b) includes all the necessary details. The way I see it, if I work here and I can't understand something then surely no one else will. Then the draft issue is reviewed by each of the Coordinators for accuracy and general booboo's. This is important as phrases like "blah blah blah" have been known to slip in.

Once the Coordinators have made corrections, I revise the issue and give the new draft to Provincial Librarian, Marion Pape, for final approval. (By this point, the pressure of getting the issue out by the month's end is pretty high.) Once the Provincial Librarian approves the issue, I make last minute corrections and send it out by e-mail to you, our faithful readers, through the DISSEM-LIST listserv. Suzanne Sexty of APLA, who is on the listserv, then forwards a copy of the issue to readers of the APLA listserv.

But the work doesn't stop there! The issue then has to be HTML-coded for loading onto the Provincial Library's Web site. Once completed and mounted on the server, I e-mail a copy of the HTML-coded issue to the National Library for their Electronic Collection (www.nlc-bnc.ca/eppp-archive/). Then, my friends, the process starts all over again. -- Sue Dirani

CORE SERVICES STUDY

A Working Group comprised of Janet Pelley of Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, David Witherly of Annapolis Valley Regional Library, Gary Archibald of the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia and Debbie Taylor of Nova Scotia Provincial Library worked to develop standards and define a core program of services and products offered in regional libraries province-wide. The Working Group submitted a draft report to the Standards and Core Services Advisory Committee on July 11. The Advisory Committee is comprised of all regional library directors in Nova Scotia, as well as Heather MacKenzie representing the Nova Scotia Library Association, Gary Archibald from the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia, and Marion Pape, the Provincial Librarian. It is anticipated that the draft

report will be available for use by the Library Funding Formula Review Committee in August.

AUTOMATION UPDATE

The big news on automation this month is that the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library now has their own databank (Bank 7) on NcompasS with their own bibliographic records. The loading of 62,000 records into their bank took place on the weekend of July 5 and went very smoothly. The regional library staff will be involved in adding multiple copy information over the next several months in addition to barcoding and patron database work. The number of bibliographic records in NcompasS as of July 23 stands at: Western Counties - 87,403; Annapolis Valley - 99,675 and the regional libraries' union catalogue - 302,474. The retrospective conversion projects of Colchester-East Hants Regional Library and South Shore Regional Library collections are both in the last stages of completion and they will soon be ready to receive their own data.

LAUNCH OF WIRE NOVA SCOTIA

Wire Nova Scotia (WiNS) was officially launched at a reception in Sydney on July 25, 1997. Among the 75 attendees at the launch were Premier Russell McLellan and Senator Al Graham who spoke emphatically about federal support for community access. In his speech, Premier McLellan verbalized his support for the Centre for Community and Economic Networking and its work and he thanked Senator Graham for continuing involvement in strengthening the Cape Breton economy. The Premier also stated that the Community Access Program (CAP) was a great one and that he appreciated the support that Industry Canada was giving UCCB by supporting WINS 97. The Premier indicated that the main strength of Nova Scotia is in its communities and that he believed the CAP will have a great influence and will bring a real advantage to rural Nova Scotia.

Provincial Librarian, Marion Pape, also spoke at the launch noting the many partners involved in the NS Community Access Program's work. Also making remarks were Dr. Jackie Thayer Scott, President of UCCB, who highlighted the importance of technology on the survival of rural Canada and Dr. Bruce Dienes, Coordinator of WiNS 97, who introduced the six WiNS Regional Coordinators who in turn related their experiences in the various regions of Nova Scotia. WiNS is unique across Canada and we are fortunate to have the multiple partnerships/organizations involved, supportive and enthusiastic.

RIVER JOHN COMMUNITY ACCESS SITE

On July 24, Provincial Librarian, Marion Pape, attended the official opening of the River John community access site operating out of the community library in the centre of town. The community also used the occasion to launch its own Web page (http:// www.riverjohn.com). A unique feature of this community access site is that community residents volunteer to not only operate the centre but also to provide after hours access to the site in order to increase availability.

The River John site is a particularly fine model of community access and it has all the ingredients for

success. Local businesses are using the site to publish marketing materials, learn new skills, and explore sources of supplies and markets abroad. The student networker for Wire Nova Scotia, Melody Clarke, is able to return to her community and contribute excellent skills to promoting River John in a significant way. Community leaders notice the renewed self-confidence that the people in the community have in themselves and their community as they find out more about their culture, history and economy.

GATES LIBRARY FOUNDATION

On June 23, 1997, Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda French Gates, announced the formation of the Gates Library Foundation - a nonprofit organization dedicated to partnering with U.S. and Canadian public libraries to bring computers and digital information to the communities they serve. The Foundation will provide public libraries in low-income communities with the computer hardware and software required for community access to the Internet, as well as provide support and training for public library personnel throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The Gates Library Foundation will expand upon the work of Microsoft's community affairs initiative, Libraries Online. The program was launched in December, 1995 with the support of the American Library Association to bring information technology and training to public libraries in urban and rural locations.

The Foundation process for awarding grants is currently being defined, although work is under way this summer and fall with library systems already identified through the Libraries Online initiative. The Gates' commitment to libraries is in the form of a cash contribution of $200 million. In addition, Microsoft has pledged to match the Gates' cash grant with software of equal value, bringing the total commitment to $400 million.

ISM PURCHASED BY A-G CANADA

An announcement was made at the Canadian Library Association Conference that Library Information Services (ISM) has been purchased by A-G Canada Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Auto-Graphics, Inc (AG) of Pemona, California, a leading provider of bibliographic database services including CD-ROM catalogues and Web-based union catalogues. A-G Canada has also entered into an agreement with the National Library of Canada to acquire a copy of certain files for use as a part of the AMICUS database maintained by the NLC. ISM (A-G Canada) will be holding an information session in the Provincial Library's classroom on August 22 to describe future services to their clientele. A-G Canada, who is organizing the session, will be in touch with local clients.

STAFFING NOTES

The end of July brings some farewells to the Provincial Library. We say goodbye this month to Debbie Taylor who's been the acting Coordinator of User Services for the last ten months while Andrea John has been on parental leave. Also waving goodbye is Kendra Barnes, who's been filling the LA II position in

User Services for the last two and a half years. Both Kendra and Debbie will be missed but we wish them both well in the future.

The welcome mat goes out to Arlene Watts who returned to User Services this month after being on long-term leave. We're also welcoming Carole Compton-Smith who has entered into a job exchange with Andrea John for the next year. Carole, who has been teaching in the Library Technician program at the NS Community College, will be the Coordinator of User Services. We welcome Merideth Fletcher who has been hired permanently as a cataloguing librarian in Technical Services. Merideth has been filling this position on a casual basis for some time. And finally, Heather Fookes, an MLS student at Dalhousie University has been hired for the summer in Technical Services. Welcome aboard!

LINKed

The summer heat is making my brain fixate on vacations. So...this month's column is about travel info on the Web. If you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, please e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

City.Net Travel
http://www.city.net/
- I can't think of any more thorough travel information site than this one. It has all kinds of information about the places you want to visit such as any health related travel advisories, the temperature there today, links to accommodation sites, ticket reservation facilities. It also links to other travel guides such as Lonely Planet.

Royal Caribbean International
http://www.rccl.com/1.0.2.html
- Perhaps a cruise is more your speed (no pun intended). At the Royal Caribbean web site, they provide information on all their cruise packages including information on activities on board, cuisine, and room specifications. Pricing information is also included.

Passport Office
http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/passport/passport.htm
- Of course, if you're travelling outside of Canada and the USA you'll need a passport. This site at the Federal Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade offers everything you need to know to get a passport. Also lists points of service around Canada and provides advice on what to do if you lose your passport.

Universal Currency Converter
http://www.xe.net/currency/
- And don't forget to exchange your Canadian dollars into the required currency. This site allows you to determine the current exchange rate for most of the currencies around the world. For example, 1 Indian Rupee is equivalent to .04 Canadian dollars. -- Sue Dirani

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. How is a pendulum used to answer questions?

A. Entering the word "pendulum" at the Infoseek search engine (www.infoseek.com) turned up an article entitled "Using a Pendulum to Enhance Intuition" (users.sedona.net/~sugilis/08.html) which answers this question. This article is also accessible through the Metaphysical Home Page of John & Micki Baumann (users.sedona.net/~sugilis/index.html#Check out).

Q. Information on bariatric surgery, also known as stomach stapling.

A. Authoritative information on this topic can be found by entering the term "bariatric surgery" in any of the Web search engines. Two interesting sites are the INTERNATIONAL BARIATRIC SURGERY REGISTRY, Patient Outcome Research for Surgical Treatment of Obesity, The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Department of Surgery, College of Medicine (www.surgery.uiowa.edu/nbsr/ibsrbroc.html#top) and the site for the American Society for Bariatric Surgery (www.asbs.org/). -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, the first item is part of our professional collection and can be obtained through the regular interlibrary loan channels. The second item is an Internet based information resource to which anyone with an e-mail account can subscribe.

1) Gurstein, Michael, Lerner, Sally & MacKay, Mary-Jo - **The Initial WiNS Round: Added Value and Lessons Learned**. Sydney, NS: Centre for Community & Enterprise Networking, 1996 (Call # Prof 025 .04 Gur)

This is a report on the WiNS Project (Wire Nova Scotia) which began in the summer of 1996. Its purpose was to place technologically-skilled university, community college and senior high school students in Nova Scotia communities to facilitate effective use of the Internet for business, community development and job creation in the province. This 21 page document describes the objectives and goals of the WiNS project, as well as providing its history and giving a detailed assessment of its effectiveness.

2) **The Scout Report**. Weekly electronic publication produced by Net Scout, a program of the InterNIC located in the University of Wisconsin- Madison's Department of Computer Sciences.

The Scout Report is a weekly publication offering a selection of new and newly discovered Internet resources of interest to researchers and educators. Anyone can subscribe to this report by sending and e-mail message to: listserv@lists.internic.net and typing "subscribe scout-report yourfirstname yourlastname" in the body of the message (without the quotation marks).

Some staff members of the User Services section at the Provincial Library subscribe to this report and comment that it is an invaluable resource for keeping abreast of the latest information sources on the Internet. You can visit the InterNIC web site at http://rs.internic.net/cgi-bin/lwgate/SCOUT-REPORT/ to view a current issue of the Scout Report. -- Frank Oram

N.B. If you have any suggestions for new book titles for the Professional Collection, please send them to Frank at oramfl@gov.ns.ca or by calling him at (902) 424-2480.

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@